



COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

1966

The Report of the Port Medical Officer

PORT OF GREAT YARMOUTH

INTRODUCTION.

There was a further large increase in the number of ships using the port during the year, the total amounting to 3,806 as compared with last year's figure of 2,813. This extraordinary increase was due mainly to the number of vessels using the port in connection with the North Sea search for oil and gas as it appears that the position of Great Yarmouth is ideally suited for its use as a base to supply the drilling rigs in the North Sea areas. Twenty-three supply vessels for the oil rigs are now based in the port. As a result of requests for the issue of International Deratting Exemption Certificates by local shipping agents, the Council has made application to the Ministry of Health for Great Yarmouth to become an "Approved Port" for the issue of these certificates and the application is at present being considered.

No action was necessary during the year in connection with infectious disease in ships using the port and no known cases of Notifiable Disease occurred. One vessel arriving from Dakar (West Africa) was found to have two African stowaways aboard and these were examined by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health who found that they had been vaccinated and were in a good state of health.

This report is compiled in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Health Circular 33/52. As there has been no change in the matters listed under Sections V, XIV, XV and XVI, the information relating to these subjects has not been repeated.

Section I — STAFF

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
K. J. GRANT	Port Medical Officer	1.6.48	M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
R. G. NEWBERRY	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1.6.60	M.B., B.S. D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

F. T. PORTER	Port Health Inspector	3.3.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
R. S. R. COLEMAN	Deputy Port Health Inspector	10.6.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Section II — AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

The following table relates to the year ended 24th March, 1966 as figures for ships and tonnage for the calendar year are not available from the Port and Haven Commissioners.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Net Registered Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships re- ported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Inspectors	
Foreign Ports	1975	418,979	2	200	—
Coastwise	1831	477,961	—	31	—
Total	3806	896,940	2	231	—

Section III — CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

One seasonal passenger boat operated from the port during the summer months and was engaged in taking holiday-makers on one-day trips to the Continent. This vessel carried 4,875 passengers in July, 5,191 in August and 2,687 in September. No other passenger boats used the port during the year.

Some cargo boats, however, did carry a few passengers but these vessels only carry a small number of passengers at a time. Figures obtained from H.M. Customs show the amount of this traffic during the year.

	Passengers Arriving in the Port	Passengers Leaving the Port
Total	1,110	547

CARGO TRAFFIC.

Cargo entering and leaving the port increased during the year especially in cattle, fruit and vegetables, groceries, petrol, paraffin, fuel oil and chemicals. Much of the increase of the last five of these commodities was due to the North Sea oil and gas industry. Twenty-three ships used by this industry at Great Yarmouth supply the oil rigs with food, water, oil, drilling cements, well casings and mechanical parts. Most of the food is carried in large sealed insulated containers which remain unopened until landed on the oil rig. This appears to be a good method of protecting the food from possible contamination during loading and unloading.

The following table is compiled from information supplied by the Port and Haven Commissioners for the year ended 24th March, 1966 and relates to cargo handled at the port whether as imports or exports as separate figures are not available.

Cattle, Ponies, etc.	93,870 Head
Coal	143,607 Tons
Chemicals	4,979 „
Fruit and Vegetables	45,927 „
Groceries	18,373 „
Grain and Seeds	284,650 Qtrs.
Manures	26,904 Tons
Meal, etc.	30,882 „
Metals, Scrap Iron, etc.	89,163 „
Paper, Strawboards, Woodpulp, etc.	31,673 „
Petrol, Paraffin, Fuel Oil, etc.	505,927 „
Salt	4,927 „
Stone, Broken Granite, etc.	Nil
Wood Loads	84,022 Loads
Herrings (cured)	2,030 Tons
Herrings (uncured)	12,657 Crans

PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Belgium—Antwerp.

Denmark—Fredricksund, Copenhagen.

East Germany—Rostock, Wismar, Stralsund.

West Germany—Hamburg, Bremen.

Finland—Kotka, Abo, Kemi.

Holland—Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Scheveningen, Maisluys.

Norway—Christiansund, Oslo, Trondheim.

Sweden—Kalmar, Gothenburg, Larvik.

Poland—Stettin.

Section IV — INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There was no inland barge traffic during the year.

Section V — WATER SUPPLY

There was no change in the arrangements for water supply. Routine samples are taken by the East Anglian Water Company and one bacteriological sample was taken by the department from one of the quayside hydrants used to supply shipping. This sample was submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and was reported as being satisfactory.

Section VI — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952 - 1966

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

Information regarding ports in Europe and on the Mediterranean coast is extracted from the World Health Organisation's weekly list, and a copy of this information is forwarded by post to the Waterguard Office of the local Custom House.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district—Although Great Yarmouth is not a radio transmitting port, radio messages can be sent to ships through the Humber or North Foreland transmitting stations.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon—Arrangements for the receipt of radio messages are the same as for those for transmission. The telegraphic address is Portelth, Great Yarmouth.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

Messages are received by telephone from H.M. Inspector of Customs and Excise.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

(a) Within the docks—A berth will be made available, its situation being subject to conditions prevailing in the harbour at the time.

(b) Outside the docks—Yarmouth Roads anchorage.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR :—

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Smallpox—see Section VII).—Accommodation for infectious diseases other than smallpox is available at the Estcourt Hospital, Great Yarmouth.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts—The surveillance and follow-up of contacts would be undertaken by the Port Health Inspector under the direction of the Port Medical Officer.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.—In case of infectious disease, disinfection is carried out by the staff of the local authority. Persons are cleansed and clothing and other articles are disinfected as required under arrangements made by the local authority at the Northgate Hospital.

Section VII — SMALLPOX

(1) Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board, smallpox cases would be admitted to Ipswich Smallpox Hospital.

(2) It has been agreed that Ipswich Ambulance Service would undertake responsibility for all arrangements for transport of smallpox cases to hospital. Applications for transport would be sent to the Resident Medical Officer, St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich (Telephone number Ipswich 77211). The Ipswich Authority is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

(3) Smallpox consultants available :—

Dr. W. A. Oliver, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

(4) Specimens for laboratory examination would be sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, The Hyde, London, N.W.9.

Section VIII — VENEREAL DISEASE

Great Yarmouth V.D. Clinic is situated in Churchill Road, and sessions at which merchant seamen can attend are held as follows :—

Mondays—9.30 a.m. - 12 noon.

Wednesdays—2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Information slips regarding the clinic are issued to masters and ships' agents.

In-patient treatment when required would be carried out under the arrangements of the Regional Hospital Board.

Masters of vessels are asked to report any cases of venereal disease among the crew, and advice is given as to when and where treatment may be obtained.

The master of a vessel arriving from South America requesting assistance regarding disease among his crew received a visit by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health who gave the necessary advice.

Section IX — CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SHIPS

TABLE D. — Nil.

Section X — OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No cases of malaria occurred in ships entering the port.

Section XI — MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague arrived at the port.

Section XII — MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

Routine inspections of vessels arriving from foreign ports are carried out by Port Health Inspectors and the Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate is checked for validity. If the certificate is out of date or if any evidence of rat infestation is discovered, the master of the ship is directed to proceed at his own risk to the nearest "Approved Port" or "Designated Approved Port" for the issue of a new Deratting Exemption Certificate or for the necessary treatment for the issue of a Deratting Certificate as the case may be.

Bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents would be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich but no specimens were submitted during the year.

Efforts are made to secure the efficient rat-proofing of ships, and particular attention is paid to foodstores, storerooms, etc.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year :—

Category	Number			Total
	In ships from foreign ports	In coastwise ships and fishing vessels	In docks, quays, wharfs and warehouses	
Black rats	—	—	—	—
Brown rats	—	—	150	150
Species not known	—	—	—	—
Sent for examination	—	—	—	—
Infected with plague	—	—	—	—

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports :—

Nil.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951.

Six rodent control certificates were issued under Article 3(2)(b) of the Order during the year.

These certificates are issued to coastwise vessels and are valid for four months from date of issue. The certificate states that the ship has been inspected and was free from rats and mice at the time of the inspection. If it was found necessary to treat any vessel for rats and mice in connection with the above mentioned order, trapping and poisoning would be carried out by the rodent staff employed by the department under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

Section XIII — INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices :—

Nature and number of inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory notices	*Other notices	
British ships	31	—	5	3 complied with
Foreign ships	200	—	12	6 complied with
British fishing vessels	—	—	—	—
Total	231	—	17	9 complied with

* Including oral notices

Section XIV — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948.

No change.

Section XV — MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

No change.

Section XVI — MISCELLANEOUS

No change.

FOOD INSPECTION

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937-1948

Various foods including canned meats, canned fruits, canned milk, lard, cheese, biscuits, margarine and dried milk regularly arrived from Holland and Belgium. Almost daily arrivals of fresh fruit and vegetables from Holland continued throughout the year. These foods were the subject of regular routine inspections by Public Health Inspectors and it was found that these imports were generally of high quality. Food which was surrendered as unfit was dealt with by disposal within the Corporation tip. A consignment of lard which was surrendered was disposed of by rendering down at the local tallow works. Imports commenced towards the end of the year of whole frozen egg which had been prepared in Holland. Bacteriological samples of this product were taken from consignments arriving at the port in accordance with the Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963 and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Ipswich for examination. Eight such samples were taken and all passed the Alpha Amylase test prescribed by the Regulations.

Number of inspections of consignments of imported food : 200.

Samples of Imported Foods were taken during the year and submitted to Dr. E. C. Wood the Public Analyst. The following table shows the number of samples obtained together with results of analysis.

No. submitted	Result of Analysis
Onions	3 Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Fresh Lettuces	3 Genuine. One sample contained 2 p.p.m. Gamma B.H.C.
French Cauliflower	1 Genuine.
Potatoes	2 Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.

Lard	1	Genuine.
Evaporated Milk	1	Genuine.
Austrian Roller Dried Milk	2	Unsatisfactory.
Cooking Oil	1	Genuine.
Chicken Fillets in Jelly	1	Genuine.
Luncheon Meat – Pork	1	Genuine.
Fresh Dutch Cucumber	1	Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Fresh Dutch Tomatoes	1	Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Imported Spanish Oranges	1	Genuine. Contained 0.8 p.p.m. Malathion.
Whole New Potatoes	1	Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Cauliflower Florets	1	Genuine.
South African oranges	1	Genuine. Trace of Malathion present.
Apples	1	Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Frozen Peas	1	Genuine. Free from pesticide residue.
Dutch Imported Carrots	1	Genuine.
Dutch Imported Whole Frozen Egg	8	All satisfactory.

Although all the pesticide samples shown in the above mentioned table were reported as being genuine three out of the fifteen samples submitted were found to contain traces of pesticide. There are, at present, no standards laid down in this country for specific amounts of permitted pesticide residues but the standards adopted by the United States of America are used as a guide and no samples submitted exceeded the limits laid down by that country.

Two samples of Austrian Roller Dried Milk were found to be deficient in milk fat. Correspondence with the importers showed that the manufacturers statement of fat content had omitted to state that the figure quoted was a percentage “on the dry matter”. The statement on the packages of milk powder is to be amended in order to avoid misrepresentation.

